

Compare and Contrast Guide

I. Describe (What do I see?)

- A. Describe all of the details you see in the work such as recognizable objects, shapes, colors, etc. (house, car, shoe, dog, flower, cloud, etc.)
- B. What is the subject of the work? (landscape, portrait, people, still life, animals, religious, historic)
- C. Is there a place or setting? (inside or outside...if so, where?)
- D. How is the work oriented on the canvas? Does it have a horizontal or vertical orientation?
- E. What is going on in the picture? Is there an action taking place?

II. Analyze (How is the work organized? Talk about the compositional design.)

- A. Talk about how the artist uses the elements of art as listed below:

***line**: strong, dominant, thin, directional (vertical, horizontal, diagonal), broken, outline, structural, curved.

***Color and value**: warm, cool, light, dark, solid, transparent, bright, dull, monochromatic, realistic or abstract.

***Texture**: smooth, rough, coarse, soft

***Space**: perspective, foreground, middle ground, background, point of view

***Shape and Form**: 2D vs. 3D form on flat surface, sculptural form

- B. How does the artist use the principles of design? (contrast, emphasis, rhythm, pattern, movement, balance, unity, repetition)
- C. How do the elements and principles of the design work together?
- D. How does the artist use the elements and principles to get your attention?
- E. Is the work abstract or realistic? Why?
- F. Is the work old or modern? Does it depict history or something more contemporary?

III. Interpret

- A. Is there a story being told in this artwork? What do you think it is?
- B. Why do you think the artist made this artwork? What was the artist's purpose?
- C. Is the artist communicating meaning in their work? What is the meaning of it then?

IV. Judge

- A. Do you feel this artwork is successful? Why or why not?